



LBPD

LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

May 2008

Crime Watch News

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Administrator
Community Relations
Division

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Community Relations
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Community Crime Prevention Meeting



Internet safety

Wednesday, May 21, 2008, 7:00 P.M.
Long Beach Water Department
1800 East Wardlow Road



E-mail Crime Watch Newsletter

All future newsletters will be mailed electronically, unless requested in hard copy format. Please provide your e-mail address to Police Services Specialist Nicole Avalos at:

Nicole_Avalos@longbeach.gov

Those of you who do not wish to have your Crime Watch Newsletter e-mailed to you, please call Community Relations at (562) 570-7215 to update your address information.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

♦ **May 16 25th Annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Celebration** will be held through **May 18** at the Marina Green and the Rainbow Lagoon. Call 562.987.9191 for more information.

♦ **May 31 Long Beach Intercommunity Unity Festival** will be held at the Rainbow Lagoon. Call 562.544.2673 for more information.



♦ **June 14-15**

Summer Games - Special Olympics Southern California will be held **June 14-15** at **California State University, Long Beach**. Call 562.354.2602 for more information.

Building Partnerships to Prevent Crime Through Information and Education

TRAFFIC STOP

California Cell phone laws take effect July 1st 2008

When driving in California, motorists had better think twice before using their cellular phones. Unless it's for emergency purposes or they're using a hands-free device.

Starting July 1, 2008, California law will prohibit all drivers from using a handheld wireless telephone while driving, even if they reside in another state where the practice is allowed.

Motorists over 18 may use a hands-free device. Drivers under 18 may not use a cell phone or hands-free device.

Penalties

The new laws, which apply only to the person driving the vehicle, carry fines of \$20 for a first offense and \$50 for subsequent infractions. According to the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedule, with the addition of penalty assessments, a first offense is \$76 and a second offense is \$190. Convictions will appear on the violator's driving record but will not result in a point on the driver's license.

Exceptions will be granted to:

- motorists making 911 calls and emergency response personnel
- drivers of commercial vehicles who use wireless push-to-talk phones until July 1, 2011; and
- motorists operating a vehicle on private property

Using a handheld wireless telephone while driving is considered a "primary" violation, meaning law enforcement officers can stop drivers solely for this infraction.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact **Fran Clader**, California Highway Patrol's Media Relations Office at (916) 657-7202



California New Traffic Laws



California wireless phone laws take effect July 1, 2008

Cell phone use while driving is a "serious distraction."



40TH ANNUAL POLICE AWARDS CEREMONY

On Tuesday, May 13, 2008, the 40th Annual Police Awards Ceremony will be held at the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center, 300 E. Ocean Blvd, Long Beach.



Shoran Tay
CBS2/KCAL9 News

There will be a reception at 11:15 a.m., followed by lunch and the awards program at 12:00 noon.

This event publicly honors those brave citizens and police employees who have distinguished themselves by aiding their fellow men and women, often at great risk to their own personal safety.



Rick Chambers
CBS2/KCAL9 News

Tickets are available in the Community Relations Division, 333 W. Broadway, Suite 100, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased for \$35 each or \$350 for a table of 10. Make your check payable to the [City of Long Beach](#).

For further information, call the Community Relations Division at (562) 570-7215



During 2003, the legislature approved several laws affecting the California Vehicle Code. AB 301 is one the legislature affected on January 1, 2004.

AB 301 is an expansion of an existing law that prohibits a person from watching a television while driving. The new law prohibits watching or having visible, a video device (VCR, DVD, Laptop) or other video signal that is operating



and located forward of the back of the driver's seat. However, the bill does not pertain to a mobile digital terminal that is installed as part of an authorized emergency vehicle or to any motor vehicle providing emergency road service or assistance.

Summer Crime Prevention and Safety Tips

Just because children are out of school it doesn't mean that everyone is getting a break this summer. The Long Beach Police Department is preparing for a spike in crime that normally occurs during the summer months.

In the past, crime generally increased when school was out, because children have more opportunities to get into mischief. Normally, much of this mischief would be curbed by parental involvement; however, with more parents working during the day, oversight becomes difficult.

It's hard for many parents to keep an eye on their kids because they have to work during the day. It's difficult for them to know what their kids are doing and who they are doing it with. A lot of times the parents aren't even aware that their kids are in trouble until they get a call from the police.

Sometimes, it is more than just "kids being kids." The actions taken against detained children vary on the basis of age and the severity of the infraction, but if a child commits a felony, they can be charged as an adult.

Juvenile crime isn't the only beneficiary of the hot summer months. Thieves of all age groups often increase their activity because people are out of town or on vacation and leave their households for days. Burglars love to steal household appliances, electronics and items inside storage sheds.

An Ounce of PREVENTION Is Worth a Pound of CURE

It is much easier to do something to prevent a problem
than to deal with it after it has happened

Most criminals are not professional, but are opportunistic. The most effective thing we can do is to educate the community so that they will not provide the opportunity for these criminals. We are trying to educate people on crime prevention methods through many means like the crime prevention meetings we've been having at neighborhood watch meetings.

See "Summer Crime Prevention and Safety Tips" on Page 4



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Community Relations Division
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Crime Watch News

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Summer Crime Prevention and Safety Tips

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Here are few easy prevention tips:

- If you're going to be out of town, then a trusted neighbor or relative to pick up your mail and newspaper, so that your home won't have the appearance of being empty. Keep your yard cut and even get your neighbor or other family members to check around your residence. If people are out in their yard and they see a suspicious person or vehicle, they can be the eyes and ears of law enforcement, and call the police. We can send a police officer. So many times we've had crimes solved simply because citizens took the time to make a phone call.
- Be aware of your surroundings, know your neighbors and be on the look out for anything suspicious. Some people are hesitant to call the police because they don't feel their observations are important. However, the police department strongly encourages you report all suspicious behavior and activity. Together, our efforts will help keep you, your family, and your neighborhood safe!



- ♦ **In emergency, call 911**
- ♦ **For non-emergency or from your cell phone, call 562.435.6711**

If you reduce the opportunity for it to happen, then you reduce your opportunity to be a victim.

If you have any questions or need more information about the Neighborhood Watch Program, please call **Police Services Specialist Nicole Avalos at (562) 570-7229.**